

October 19, 2011

Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554



Re: WC Docket No. 11-42; WC Docket No. 03-109; CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On October 18, the following staff, who represent members of the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights Media and Telecommunications Task Force met via telephone conference call with members of the Telecommunications Access Policy Division. Specifically at the meeting were: Corrine Yu, Leadership Conference; Cheryl A. Leanza, United Church of Christ, OC Inc.; Christopher Calabrese, ACLU; Jason Lagria of Asian American Justice Center; Madura Wijewardena, Nat'l Urban League; and Michael Scurato, National Hispanic Media Coalition. On behalf of the Commission were: Kimberly Scardino, Lisa Hone Jonathan Lechter, and Jamie Susskind.

The Leadership Conference reviewed several of its most important priorities with the staff. In particular, we are extremely concerned about Commission plans to cap the Lifeline program to \$1.2 billion at this time. We believe it is essential that the FCC expand the Lifeline program immediately to broadband, enabling low-income participants to purchase bundles including broadband services with their monthly subsidy. Finally, we emphasized that we were very anxious to see the Commission initiate pilot projects that will address other reasons besides cost that low-income people do not adopt broadband. We had recommended to the Commission that it dedicate \$50 million to these pilots and be ready to implement new programs based on those pilots by 2013. We suggested the Commission use some funds from the savings and efficiencies in the high cost fund to help pay for the pilot programs.

We emphasized that we believe, just as the high cost fund is being moved to broadband services, so should the Lifeline fund directed to low-income people. We believe that if the Commission has found a legally appropriate justification to expand the high cost program to broadband, it should also be able to do the same for the low income program.

Sincerely,

Cheryl A. Leanza
Policy Advisor, United Church of Christ, OC Inc.
Co-Chair, Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights Media and Telecommunications Task Force